

TOWN OF WOODSIDE NEWS

By Brenda Richards, Town Secretary

FEBRUARY 2018

TOWN MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 AT 7 P.M. AT TOWN HALL

It's time to update you on the many issues that the Town Council has been working on over the past several months, and what is coming up that you need to be aware of.

First of all, March 31st is the date of the next town Election. The positions of Mayor and Secretary are both open to solicitation of candidates, if anyone wishes to contest the current officers, Mayor Mike Warren and Secretary, Brenda Richards. Both of them are willing to stay in these positions for another term. The other council members' terms expire next year. All town council and officer positions are non-paying, meaning these people volunteer their time to serve our town. To be qualified to run for office, you must be at least 21 years of age, be a citizen of the U.S., have been a resident of the Town of Woodside for one year prior to Election Day, and have not been convicted of any felony. Contact Mayor Mike Warren at 302-531-6883, if you have questions. If we have no candidates challenging the incumbent officers, we will NOT have an election.

To declare candidacy, submit a signed and dated letter requesting to have your name added to the 2018 election ballot by March 10, 2018. Additional forms will need to be filed with the Kent County Board of Elections, which will be supplied to you upon receipt of your letter. Send your letter to: Town of Woodside, ATTN: Brenda Richards, Town Secretary, P.O. Box 211, Woodside, DE 19980.

The town of Woodside finally has a website! A lot of information has been posted on this site and we hope it will be beneficial to you. Woodside also has an email address, so you can contact the town officials by email with your concerns or questions. Our website is <https://woodside.delaware.gov> and our email is Woodsidede19980@gmail.com. Meetings will be listed on this site along with any events, newsletters and notices. Please check it out and let us know what else you would like to have posted on the website.

We have made much progress on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and it is almost ready to submit to the State for approval. A copy of it is on our town website, if you would like to review it. Currently, it is being reviewed by our Town Lawyer. Mike Warren and Brenda Richards met with the Town of Camden officials recently to assess their plans for future annexation and development, since Camden borders Woodside. Representatives from the State Planning Office were there to help us coordinate our plans, since Camden is also updating their Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We will discuss our

findings at the town meeting on March 13th, and will show you an updated map of proposed future annexations for Camden and Woodside.

We need YOUR input about a property that was bought on Upper King Road, where the owners want to have a Dog Grooming Business on the parcel on property that is in Woodside. The business will back up to the property of Paul and Justine Davis, where K&R Graphics and Rain Design are located. The plan is to keep this property zoned as Residential with the Dog Grooming Business considered a “cottage industry.” A cottage industry is a business, which is run out of a residential home, such as a lawn care or private electrical business. The property owners are asking for a variance to allow their business to be only 5 feet away from the Davis’ property line. The Davis’ have approved the request for the variance, but we need public input on that decision. What do you think about the variance request to be only 5 feet from another property line? The property owners plan to be at the meeting to answer any questions and to get public approval on their plans. If you have any comments or concerns about their plans, come to the meeting or email us beforehand.

Our Town Charter is also in the process of being updated. It is lacking in many areas, including a process for annexation; a process for obtaining the realty transfer tax fee when a property is sold or bought in town; and a more complete process for town elections. We are also extending the term of Mayor to two years, which is more in line with the other town officers and other town term limits. We hope to have the new draft of the Charter available to discuss at the town meeting. A current copy of the Town Charter is online under our website, if you want to review it before the meeting.

We just found out that Woodside has a contract with Comcast, called a Cable Franchise Agreement, which was signed in 1989, and is now up for renewal. Town Officials will be meeting with the Comcast representative to discuss the town’s “rights and responsibilities” related to the contract. We will update you on our findings at the town meeting.

We had an issue with renting the Town Hall during a very cold period this winter, when the heat did not work in the hall on a day it was rented out. This was very unfortunate and beyond our control, so it was decided that the Town Hall will not be rented out in the future during super cold weeks, in order to prevent disappointment and hardship should something like this happen again.

Spring is right around the corner, so it’s time to think about having a Town Clean-up and maybe another Town-wide Yard Sale. More information will be coming on those plans! We are always open to new ideas and suggestions, so please contact us on our website, via email, or at the meeting!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE TOWN MEETING – TUES., MARCH 13TH 7 P.M.